Benefit of debt relief scheme, 1990 to SCs/STs

869. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the proposals to give benefit of Agriculture and Rural Debt Relief Scheme, 1990 to the members of the Scheduled Castes/Tribes who have borrowed from Notionalised Banks; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b) The Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) Scheme, 1990, was formulated by Government for providing debt relief to farmers, landless labourers, artisans, and weavers who have taken loans from public sector banks and regional rural banks. Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe borrowers coming under the above categories were eligible like others for debt-relief under the scheme. As per information available as on 31st July, 1991, as reported by Reserve Bank of India, 32,02,842 SCs/STs beneficiaries were given debt relief under the ARDR Scheme involving an amount of Rs. 708.78 crores. The Scheme has come to a close on March 31, 1991.

Newsitem captioned 'Pak Ship Arms to Bombay Shores'

@870. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item appearing in the Indian Express, New Delhi dated 5.2.1993 captioned 'Pak ships arms to Bombay shores; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to nab the concerned gang of smugglers, and to effectively plug the loop-hole?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) Government is aware of the news item. The Customs formations on the West Coast were suitably alerted. However, no case of landing of arms in or around Bombay has come to notice.

D.A. to Central Government Employees

871. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI:
SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the next instalment of Dearness Allowance has become due for payment to Central Government employees from 1.1.93 as per the existing norms;

(b) if so, details thereof with amount of such payment due scalewise;

(c) whether Government propose to take some action for early payment of such allowance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (d) As per the exising instructions based on the recommendations of the 4th Pay Commission, the additional instalment of Dearness Allowance to Central Govt. employees is calculated on the basis of percentage increase in the 12 monthly average of All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Worker (General) 1960—100) over the average index of 608, to which the existing scales of pay are related. Employees drawing pay upto Rs. 3500/- p.m. are entitled to 100 per cent neutralisation, those drawing pay above Rs. 3500/- p.m. and upto 6000/- p.m. are entitled to 75 per cent neutralisation and those drawing pay above Rs. 6000/-

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@Previously unstarred question 277, Transferred from 24th Feb., 1993.

are entitled to 65 per cent neutralisation. The annual average of AICPI as on 1.1.93 works out to 1168.83. The instalment of DA due from 1st January normally becomes payable with the salary for the month of March.

India's Balance of Payment Position

872. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our balance of payment gap has been increasing due to the increased value of imports and reduced exports; and

(b) if so, what is the latest position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b) The 1992-93 balance of payments' current account deficit is estimated to be around US dollar 7 billion as compared to US dollar 3 billion in 1991-92. The low level of imports in 1991-92 was an outcome of severe import compression measures taken by the Government. Import restrictions were gradually lifted in 1991-92 and 1992-93 saw a revival of imports to more normal levels. Exports in 1992-93 (April—December) have performed better as compared to the corresponding period in 1991-92.

बैंक कर्मचारियों का राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर आंदोलन

873. **श्री गया सिंह** : क्या **वित्त** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या बैंक कर्मचारी राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर आंदोलन करने जा रहे हैं;

(ख) क्या उक्त आंदोलन पेंशन योजना के संबंध में किया जायेगा ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो केन्द्रीय सरकार इस संबंध में क्या-क्या कदम उठा रही है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० अबरार अहमद) : (क) और (ख) भारतीय बैंक संघ ने सूचित किया है कि अखिल भारतीय बैंक कर्मचारी एसोसिएशन तथा बकों, बीमा और वित्तीय संस्थाओं में एसोसिएशन/फैडरेशन की समन्वय समिति ने अपनी मांगों के समर्थन में, जिनमें पेंशन भी शामिल है, क्रमशः 18-3-93 तथा 29-3-93 को हड़ताल का आह्वान किया है ।

(ग) हड़ताल का आह्वान कतई न्यायोचित नहीं है । सामान्यता बैंक अधिकारी/कर्मचारी अंशदायी भविष्य निधि तथा सेवा उपदान के लाभों के लिये पात्र हैं और इन्हें सरकारी कर्मचारियों और अन्य सरकारी उपक्रमों के कर्मचारियों को उपलब्ध सेवा निवृत्ति लाभों को ध्यान में रखते हुये, जिन्हें केवल पेंशन, उपदान और सामान्य भविष्य निधि का लाभ प्राप्त होता है, पर्याप्त और तुलनीय माना जाता है । फिर भी, भारतीय बैंक संघ वर्तमान में नये वेतन समझौते के बारे में बैंकों की यूनियनों के साथ बातचीत कर रही है तथा बैंकों की यूनियन के कहने पर यह मुद्दा उनकी कार्य-सूची में है ।

विदेशी सहायता का लाभकारी उपयोग

874. **डा० जिनेन्द्र कुमार जैन** : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 19 जनवरी, 1993 के "आब्जर्वर" में "यूटीलाइज फोरेन एंड गेनफुल्ली" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह सच है कि प्राप्त सूचनाओं के अनुसार विदेशों से विभिन्न रूपों से अब तक प्राप्त वित्त